



THE PASSIONIST MISSIONARIES

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

January 28, 2020

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Nanci Langley
Commissioner Mark Acton
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join The Nonprofit Alliance (TNPA), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our annual fundraising dollars raised. We have a fixed fundraising budget, so if postage goes up as much as you proposed, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailing volumes. In turn, this will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

The Passionists of St. Paul of the Cross Province are a Catholic religious community, founded by St. Paul of the Cross. We serve as preachers, retreat givers, pastors, educators and in many other ministries in the Church. Geographically, our Province extends from West Hartford Connecticut to North Palm Beach, Florida, and as far west as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Province of Saint Paul of the Cross is part of a larger world-wide community of thousands of Passionist priests, brothers, sisters and nuns who minister in over fifty countries. We, as Passionists make a special promise to promote the memory of the passion of Jesus by word and deed. We do this especially in preaching and various ministries among the poor, and the marginalized of every kind and are engaged in education, parochial and other charitable outreaches.

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will impact on our mission and the people we serve in the various ministries of the community we serve.

We urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates.

Sincerely yours,

Gregory A. Hampson
CFO & Chief Administrative Officer
St. Paul's Benevolent, Educational and Ministry Institute, Inc.

ALL PASSIONIST RELIGIOUS PRAY DAILY FOR YOUR INTENTIONS.

LEGAL TITLE - ST. PAUL'S BENEVOLENT EDUCATIONAL AND MISSIONARY INSTITUTE, INC.